mazing man

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READY... AIM... FIRE

FOUR-ALARM FUN!

'mazing man
by ROZAKIS and DE STEFANO
"BIG BROTHER'S WATCHING...
...or so he thought!"
GARY MARTIN INKER
BOB LAPPAN LETTERER
NANSI HOOLAHAN COLORIST
BARBARA RANDALL EDITOR
NOW REMEMBER, LEON-- EVEN THOUGH DENTON IS A LITTLE WEIRD-LOOKING, DON'T GAWK AT HIM!
WHY DO I HAFTA LOOK AT HIM AT ALL?
-: GRUNT:-
BECAUSE IT WOULD BE NICE IF YOU THANKED THE GUY WHOSE BASEBALL GLOVE YOU'RE GOING TO BORROW.
'MORNING, MRS. COSTINAS.
GRUNT GRUNT
PSWEE PSWEE PSWEE PSWEE
HEY, GUIDO-- I DIDN'T KNOW YOU JOGGED. OR ARE YOU TRYING OUT FOR THE GIRL-CHASING OLYMPICS?
YOU GOT IT, SPORT. I LOVE THE LOOK O' BABES IN SWEATY TEE-SHIRTS!
WELL, GOOD LUCK. BUT I THINK YOU'D HAVE A BETTER ASSORTMENT AT SIX A.M.
PSWEE PSWEE PSWEE
'EY, EDDIE-- I DON'T GET UP AT SIX A.M. FOR NOBODY! 'SIDES, THE ONE I'M AFTER'S A LATE SLEEPER!
WHO'S THE KID?
NIKE
OH, THIS IS LEON JACKSON. I'M HIS BIG BROTHER.
YEAH, THERE IS A RESEMBLANCE. HARHAR!
SEE YA.

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WHAT'S SHAKIN', MRS. C.?
Suh-lam
:GRUNT:
GRUNT- ah GRUNT- ah GRUNT- ah
THAT BAD, HUH? WELL, NICE TALKIN' TO YA.
SHUDDER!
SAME TO YOU, STUD.
OKAY, LEON, REMEMBER WHAT I SAID...
HI!
YOU'RE JUST IN TIME FOR BREAKFAST!
4C
YEAH, COME IN AND HAVE A WAFFLE... OR SIX.
YOU EXPECTING COMPANY? AN ARMY, MAYBE?
MAZE LEARNED HOW TO MAKE THEM IN SUMMER CAMP... BUT THE RECIPE FEEDS A HUNDRED!
THEY ARE GOOD WAFFLES, THOUGH.
UH, MR. EDDIE -- WHICH ONE O' THESE GUYS IS DENTON? THEY'RE BOTH WEIRD-LOOKIN'.
DON'T THE BIG BROTHER PROGRAM SCREEN YOU GUYS -- FIND OUT WHO YOUR FRIENDS ARE?
Mrs SUGA
OOOH, EDDIE'S YOUR BIG BROTHER? I TRIED TO BE ONE, BUT THEY COULDN'T FIND ANYBODY I WAS BIGGER THAN. HEEHEE.
GOOD THING. YOU NEVER WOULD HAVE GOTTEN PAST BREAKFAST.
THE BANK SET IT UP PART OF THE "COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT" VANDERPLATZ IS PUSHING.

AND WE'RE ALREADY BEHIND SCHEDULE. LISTEN, DENTON, CAN WE BORROW YOUR BASEBALL GLOVE?

LEON AND I ARE HEADING OVER TO THE PARK FOR SOME CATCH.

DENTON?

YOU'LL HAVE TO FORGIVE HIM, EDDIE. HE WAS UP ALL NIGHT THINKING ABOUT GETTING WRITER'S BLOCK.

DENTON--?

-: ZZZNORK :- NOT *ME*. MOM! *K.P.* STUFFED YOUR OLD SOCKS IN THE GARBAGE DISPOSAL!

SO WHAT ELSE IS ON YOUR AGENDA? ANY LUNCH PLANS?

NOT WAFFLES, I HOPE.

HUNH! OH, YEAH-- THE GLOVE. SURE. BE RIGHT BACK.

ACTUALLY, WE'RE GOING OVER TO THE FIREHOUSE WHERE MY FATHER WORKS. DAD'S GONNA GIVE LEON A TOUR.

WOW--*NEAT-O!* COULD *I* COME TOO?

HERE, LEON WATCH OUT FOR HIS FASTBALL.

I GUESS. BUT LET'S MOVE IT, OKAY? WE'RE RUNNING *LATE!*

GREAT. LET ME JUST PACK A SNACK.

DON'T WAIT UP, DENTON. HEEHEE.

ZZZZZZZZZZZZ

I'M SO GLAD DENTON WENT TO SLEEP. HE WAS REALLY TIRED.
I NEVER SEEN A GUY SLEEP LEANIN' AGAINST A DOOR BEFORE. DON'T IT HURT HIS NOSE?
OH, HE'LL WAKE UP AND GET INTO BED EVENTUALLY.
CONDUIT FIELD
NO SPITTING LOUD MUSIC FUN
HI, LADIES. WANT SOME WAFFLES?
BUENO.
OH, MAZING MAN, THEY LOOK DELICIOUS!
THANKS SO MUCH
THOSE LADIES ON DRUGS OR WHAT?
NO. THEY JUST ACCEPT MAZE FOR WHAT HE IS.
YEAH? WHAT IS HE?
IT DOESN'T MATTER. LET'S TALK ABOUT YOU. EVER PLAY LITTLE LEAGUE?
LITTLE LEAGUE'S FOR NERDS.
IS NOT. LOTS OF BIG LEAGUERS START OUT THAT WAY. I PLAYED IT... AND I WAS SCOUTED BY THE PITTSBURGH PIRATES.
YOU'RE JUST A NERD WHO WORKS IN A BANK. I DON'T SEE YOU WEARIN' A UNIFORM.
YOU DON'T SEE THE BALL, EITHER, LEON. PAY ATTENTION.
HEY, MAN, CHECK YOUR WATCH! TIME TO STOP YET?
I WISH.

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.

GEE, GUIDO, YOU SURE LOOK TIRED.
YOU SAID IT. TIRED OF WAITIN'.
OH. ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO MEET SOMEBODY HERE?
YEAH, 'CEPT SHE DON'T KNOW IT YET.
WELL, WHILE YOU'RE SITTING HERE, WOULD YOU LIKE A WAFFLE? THEY'RE CHOCK-FULL OF VITAMINS AND HIGH IN FIBER...
NO, THANKS.
SHUV!
TIME TO END THE WAFFLE-THON, MAZE. DAD'LL BE WAITING FOR US.
OH, 'MAZING MAN--!
YOU SURE YOU AREN'T AUNT JEMIMA UNDER THAT HELMET?
I MUST HAVE THE RECIPE.
OKAY, BUT I HOPE YOU'VE GOT A BIG FAMILY. HEEHEE.
COULD I HAVE ONE FOR MY COUSIN? SHE'LL BE JOGGING BY IN A FEW MINUTES.
"COUSIN"--?
'EY, BUCKET-HEAD. MAYBE I WILL HAVE SOME OF THEM!

"WE TAKIN' A CAB?"
"WE'RE GOING THREE BLOCKS. THINK YOU CAN MAKE IT, LEON?"
"SURE. IT'S JUST I FIGURED A GUY WHO WORKS IN A BANK DON'T WALK ANYPLACE."
ENGINE NO 308 HOOK AND LADDER
"I WORK IN THE BANK. I DON'T ROB IT."
--AND WE PUT IN TWO DAYS AND THEN TWO NIGHTS A WEEK. ON THE NIGHT SHIFT WE SLEEP UPSTAIRS.
TILL AN ALARM COMES IN. THEN WE SLIDE DOWN THE POLE.
WHEEEEEEE
CLARENCE, WE'VE GOT A VISITOR. AN ASSISTANT BANK MANAGER.
FWUMP
EDDIE! HOW'S THE BOY GENIUS?
JUST FINE. LEON, CLARENCE USED TO BUY ME AN ICE CREAM POP EVERY TIME I VISITED.
VANILLA, RIGHT? HERE-- HERE'S A BUCK.
'SOKAY. I CAN BUY MY OWN NOW.
NO PROBLEM. I'LL BET YOUR LITTLE PAL COULD USE SOME, THOUGH. HERE YOU GO, LEON.
UH, THANKS.
SO, SON, WHAT ELSE HAVE YOU GOT PLANNED?
I FIGURED WE'D GO TO LUNCH AT BURGER CITY...
NICE. HAVE A CATCH?
DONE.
GOOD BOY. JUST THE WAY WE DID IT, EH?

BRIINNNG!
THAT'S US. GOT TO CUT THE TOUR SHORT, SON.
UH-OH! I DIDN'T HAVE THIS SCHEDULED.
BRRRIINNG!
NICE TO MEET YOU, LEON. COME BACK AGAIN SOON.
ENJOY THAT ICE CREAM.
RRRRR
RRR
HEY, DAD -- WHERE'S THE FIRE? IF IT'S CLOSE, WE'LL FOLLOW AND MAYBE SEE YOU IN ACTION.
VRRUMM
ENGINE NO HOOK AND LADDER
VWEEEEEEE
APARTMENT BUILDING, CORNER OF 199TH AND 320TH.
199TH --
-- AND 320TH?
EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE
THAT'S --
-- MY BUILDING!

WHOSE APARTMENT--
--IF ANYBODY'S INSIDE--
--PROB'LY LEFT AN IRON ON--
--FIREMEN GOT HERE FAST--
--GOOD THING I CALLED--
F.D.MACK N.Y.
EDDIE--THAT'S MY KITCHEN! AND DENTON'S UP THERE! HE COULD DIE!
STAY COOL, MAZE! DAD AND THE MEN KNOW WHAT TO DO. DENTON'LL BE OKAY.
I CAN'T JUST STAND AND WATCH. I'VE GOT TO SAVE HIM!
MAZE--!
-:ZZZNORK:-
WHAT'S GOING ON OUT HERE
DON'T PANIC, YOUNG FELLA. WE'LL HAVE THE FIRE OUT IN NO TIME.
FINE. THEN I CAN GO BACK TO SL--
"THE FIRE"?!?

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

WHAT A MORNING. NO SIGN OF THAT FOXY JOGGER, I GOT A SACKFULL O' SOGGY WAFFLES... AND NOW MY BUILDING'S GONNA BURN DOWN.
WHERE'D THAT DOGGY-FACED GUY GO?
RAN BACK INSIDE.
SURE HOPE THERE AIN'T WATER DAMAGE TO MY NEW THREADS. GOTTA WEAR 'EM TO WORK.
OH, DEAR-- IS THERE ANYBODY TRAPPED INSIDE?
HUNH?
NO MATTER, BEAUTIFUL. THE MOST IMPORTANT TENANT'S RIGHT HERE! HOW 'BOUT A WAFFLE?
LET 'ER RIP!
WAIT!
IT'S JUST A BURNING WAFFLE. SEE? IT'S A FALSE ALARM!
BOIK!
DON'T WORRY, DENTON--I'LL SAVE YOU!
WHA--?
KERSPLOK
THANKS, PAL.
SNIF!

LATER...
BURGER CITY
SO, WAS IT A GOOD DAY FOR YOU?
YEAH, SURE.
I MEAN IT. IT'S IMPORTANT TO ME THAT YOU HAD A GOOD TIME.
COME ON. YOU'RE JUST MAKING SURE YOUR BOSS'LL GET A GOOD REPORT. YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT ME.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
FORGET IT, MAN.
HEY--I TOOK YOU TO PLAY BALL. BROUGHT YOU TO SEE DAD'S FIREHOUSE. BOUGHT YOU LUNCH.
YOU KNOW HOW MANY OTHER BIG BROTHERS DID THE SAME THING? ALL OF 'EM!
Tap Tap Tap Tap Tap Tap Tap
WHAT DO THEY DO-- GIVE YOU GUYS A CHECKLIST?
NO I THOUGHT THOSE WERE THE THINGS.. I MEAN, MY DAD AND I DID THEM...
BUT ALL YOU DID WAS WISE OFF. YOU NEVER TOLD ME WHAT YOU WANTED TO DO.
Tap Tap Tap Tap Tap
WOULD IT HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE?
MAYBE...
Tap Tap Ta Tap
NEXT SATURDAY?
OKAY.
the END

"HERE YOU GO, BERNIE -- THE LATEST ADVENTURE OF.."

THE VERY FUN ADVENTURES OF ZOOT SPUTNIK & HIS FRIENDS

DENTON FIXX writer
FRED HEMBECK art by
BOB LAPPAN letterer
NANSI HOOLAHAN colorist
BERNARD I CORNFELDT editor in chief

"NICE JOB, FIXX -- TYPED NEAT. KEEP THIS UP AND I'LL RAISE YOUR PAGE RATE TO $3.25!"

CHICAGO -- FEBRUARY 13, 1932! CRIME BLOWS THROUGH THE WINDY CITY LIKE A TORNADO THROUGH A PAPER BAG...

GREAT DINNERS at ZAP'S RESTAURANT 1226 N. Van Buren

...AND CRIME IS A THREAT TO EVERY HONEST MAN TRYING TO EARN A LIVING --

GOSH, DADDY, DO YOU THINK WE COULD HIRE ANOTHER WAITRESS? I'M GETTING AWFULLY TIRED THESE DAYS.

SORRY, WE'RE CLOSED RIGHT NOW.

JUDY, HONEY, I PROMISED YOUR MOMMA WHEN SHE DIED THAT I'D NEVER REPLACE HER.

DADDY, I THINK WHAT SHE MEANT WAS *IN YOUR HEART* --

VAVAVOOOM!

tingle

SORRY, GENTLEMEN, WE DON'T OPEN UNTIL FIVE P.M.

HEY, BABE -- HOW'S ABOUT YOU AND ME CHECK OUT THE MEAT LOCKER?

LISTEN, ZAP -- BIG AL SENT US. HE HEARD YOU AIN'T BEEN PAYIN' PROTECTION AND HE...

.. DON'T WANT NOTHIN' BAD TO HAPPEN TO THIS FINE ESTABLISHMENT O' YOURS.

YOU.. YOU. CRIMINALS...

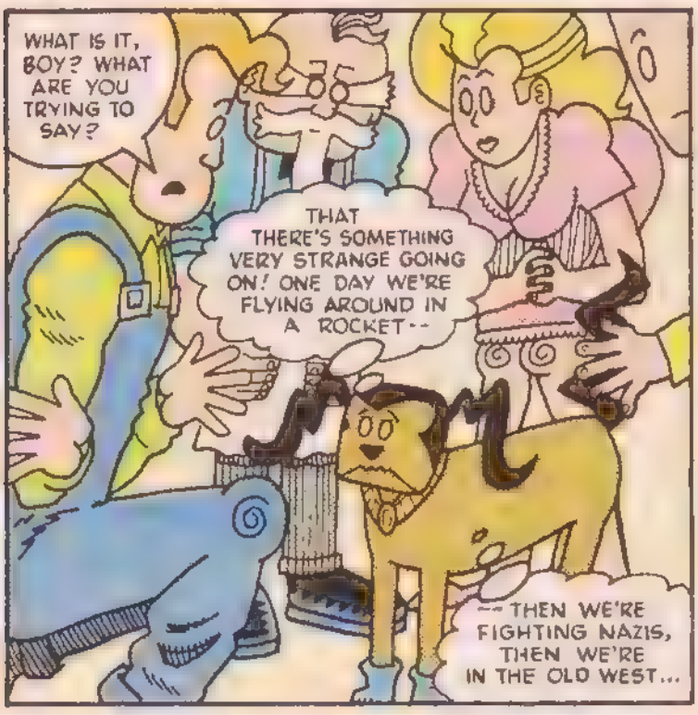
...I'M A HARD-WORKING MAN. I WON'T PAY YOU!

THINK ABOUT IT, OLD MAN -- AN UNFORTUNATE ACCIDENT WIT' A TOMMYGUN COULD DO A LOT OF DAMAGE IN HERE!

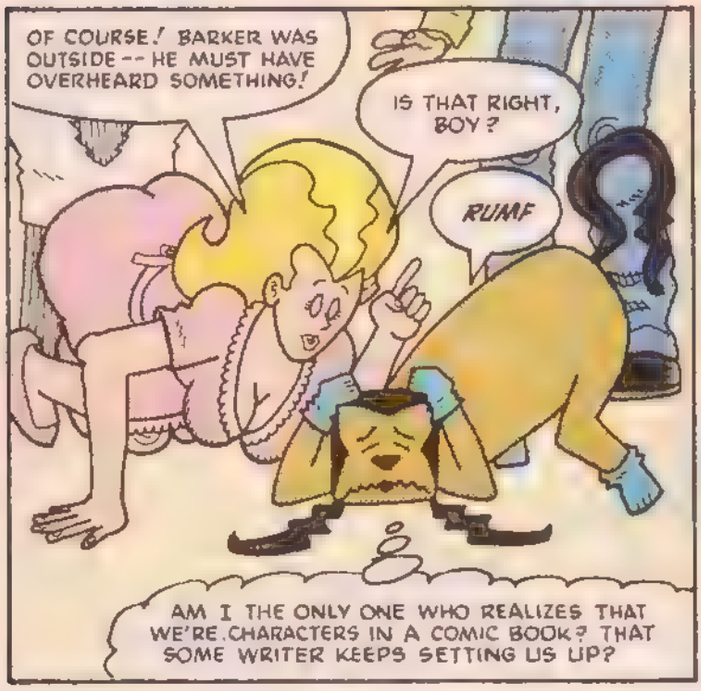
RATATAT

THANKFULLY, IN TIMES OF TROUBLE THERE IS HELP FOR THE BEATEN LITTLE MAN, HOPE FOR THE OPPRESSED: A MAN'S MAN...
...ZOOT SPUTNIK OF THE U.U.U.*
CHEEKEEZ, ZOOT -- LOOKS LIKE WE GOT HERE TOO LATE!
*UNION OF UNDERCOVER UNTOUCHABLES --EDITOR
IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO STOP CRIME, WINKY! DON'T WORRY, MR. ZAP-- WE'LL BE WAITING FOR THOSE THUGS WHEN THEY COME BACK.
THANK YOU, SIR. OH, THANK YOU.
WHAT A MAN!
WE'D BETTER BE CAREFUL, ZOOT--THEY USED HIGH CALIBER VIOLIN CASES THIS TIME!
AND SO, THE NEXT AFTERNOON...
CHEEKEEZ, ZOOT -- I DIDN'T THINK WE'D REALLY HAVE TO PLASTER THE WALLS!
A GOOD UNDERCOVER AGENT PLAYS THE PART TO THE HILT, WINKY--REMEMBER THAT!
OKAY, BUT THIS STUFF SURE IS STICKY--
RUMF!
WATCH WHERE YOU'RE PUTTING THOSE CLODHOPPERS, YOU JERK!
--OOPS, SORRY, BARKER.
AFTERNOON, ZAP. SEE YER HAVIN' SOME REPAIRS DONE!
COULDA SAVED YERSELF SOME DOUGH BY HAVIN' THE PLACE PROTECTED!
CATCH MY DRIFT?
I TOLD YOU BEFORE, I WON'T DEAL WITH CRIMINALS!
HOW ABOUT YOU, BABE? YOU WANT TO DEAL WITH US...ON MY TERMS?
YEEP! ZOOT-- HELP ME!
ZOOT?
SSSH, MISS JUDY. DON'T BLOW OUR COVER.
ONLY ONE MAN I KNOW NAMED ZOOT... SPUTNIK OF THE U.U.U!
I'D BETTER MAKE A QUICK PHONE CALL.

BE RIGHT BACK, TOMMY. I GOTTA MAKE A PHONE CALL.
WHY DO I HAVE THIS INCREDIBLE URGE TO FOLLOW HIM?
PHONE
THEN, OUTSIDE...
I'M TELLIN YA, BIG AL--ZOOT SPUTNIK'S INSIDE ZAP'S. THIS IS YOUR BIG CHANCE TO GET HIM.
UH OH ZOOT'S IN TROUBLE. I'D BETTER DO SOMETHING!
PHONE
WOW! THAT'S WHAT I CALL QUICK SERVICE!
I'D REALLY BETTER DO SOMETHING!
MEANWHILE, INSIDE THE RESTAURANT...
WE'VE HEARD ENOUGH! DROP THE VIOLIN CASE!
CREEPIN' CANOLES YOU'RE...YOU'RE.. ZOOT SPUTNIK!
I GOTTA GET OUTTA HERE!
CHEEKEEZ, ZOOT-- HE'S FLYING THE COOP!
AFTER HIM!
IT'S BARKER!
RUMF RUMF RUMF
SOUNDS LIKE HE'S TRYING TO TELL US SOMETHING!
YOU BETTER BELIEVE IT, PAL!


WHAT IS IT, BOY? WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?
THAT THERE'S SOMETHING VERY STRANGE GOING ON! ONE DAY WE'RE FLYING AROUND IN A ROCKET--
--THEN WE'RE FIGHTING NAZIS, THEN WE'RE IN THE OLD WEST...

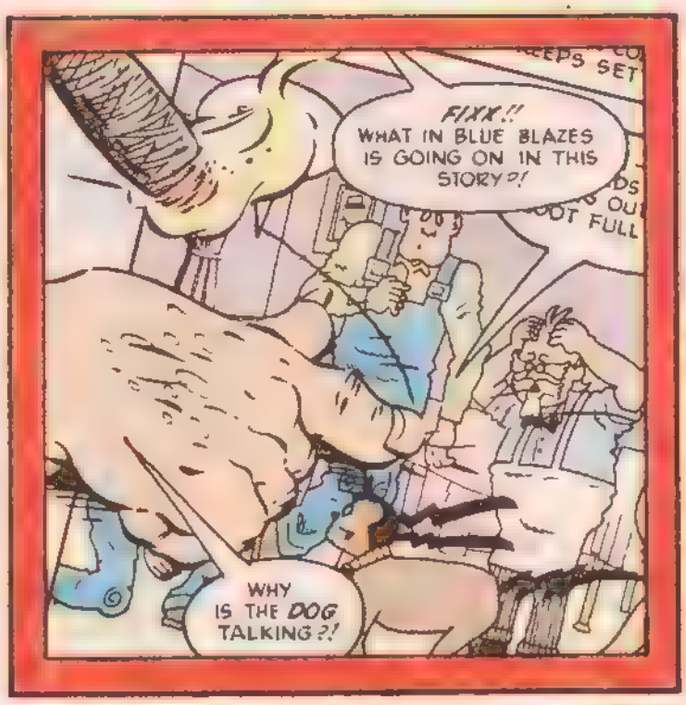
TELL US, BARKER. IS THERE A TRAP SET FOR ZOOT?
RUMF
OF COURSE THERE IS, YOU NINNY. THERE'S A TRAP SET IN EVERY STORY!

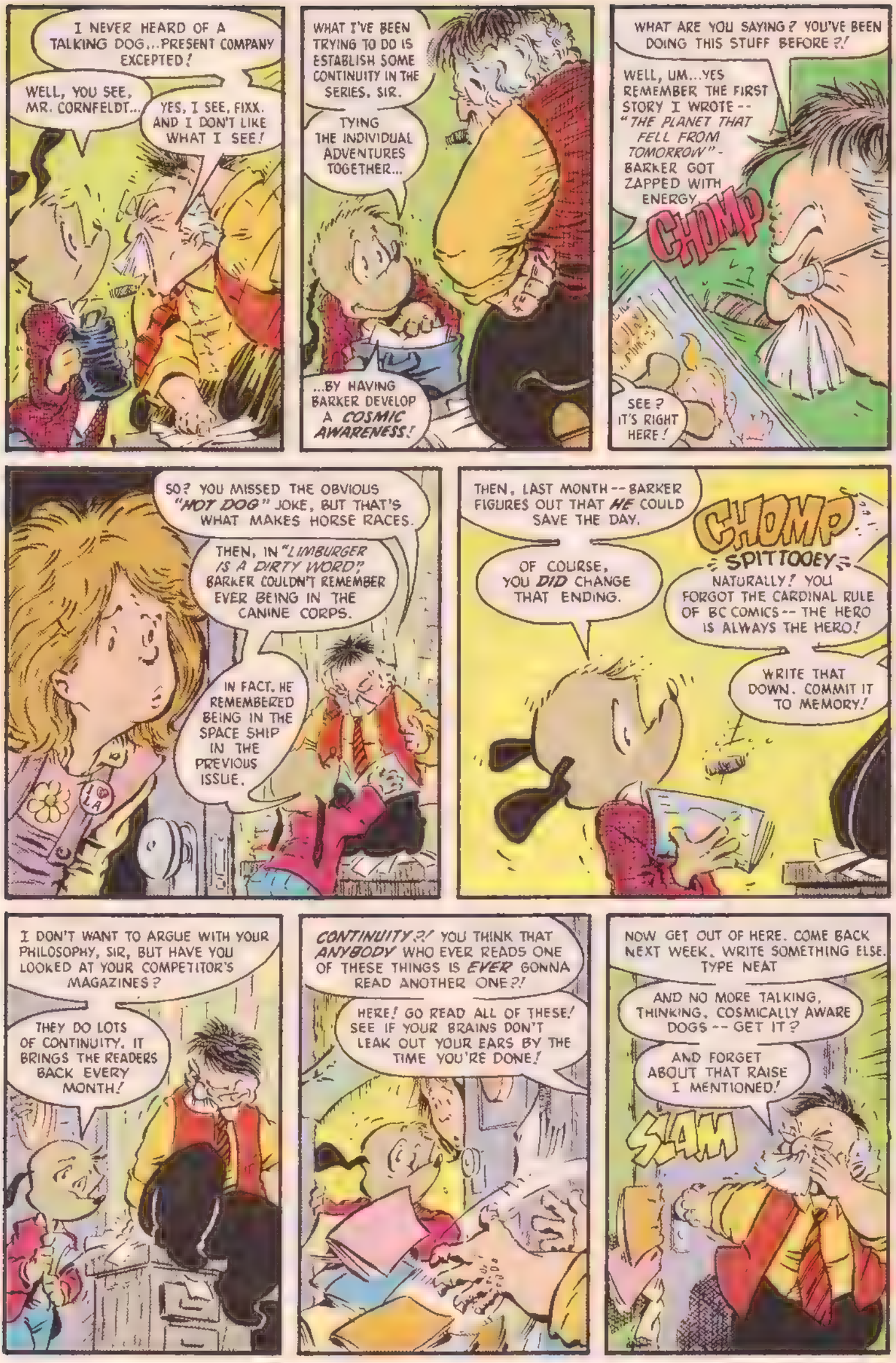

OF COURSE! BARKER WAS OUTSIDE -- HE MUST HAVE OVERHEARD SOMETHING!
IS THAT RIGHT, BOY?
RUMF
AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO REALIZES THAT WE'RE CHARACTERS IN A COMIC BOOK? THAT SOME WRITER KEEPS SETTING US UP?

IF ONLY I COULD TALK, I'D TELL THESE NINNIES!

WAIT A MINUTE! THIS IS A COMIC BOOK-- WHY CAN'T I TALK?!

SPEAK, BOY!
LISTEN--THERE'RE THOUSANDS OF GANGSTERS WAITING OUTSIDE TO BLOW ZOOT FULL OF HOLES!


FIXX!! WHAT IN BLUE BLAZES IS GOING ON IN THIS STORY?!
WHY IS THE DOG TALKING?!

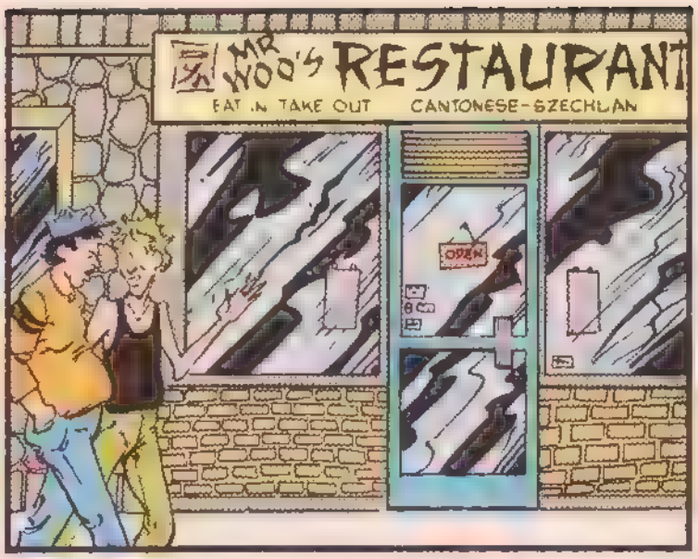

I NEVER HEARD OF A TALKING DOG...PRESENT COMPANY EXCEPTED!
WELL, YOU SEE, MR. CORNFELDT...
YES, I SEE, FIXX. AND I DON'T LIKE WHAT I SEE!
WHAT I'VE BEEN TRYING TO DO IS ESTABLISH SOME CONTINUITY IN THE SERIES, SIR.
TYING THE INDIVIDUAL ADVENTURES TOGETHER...
...BY HAVING BARKER DEVELOP A COSMIC AWARENESS!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? YOU'VE BEEN DOING THIS STUFF BEFORE?!
WELL, UM...YES REMEMBER THE FIRST STORY I WROTE -- "THE PLANET THAT FELL FROM TOMORROW" - BARKER GOT ZAPPED WITH ENERGY
CHOMP
SEE? IT'S RIGHT HERE!
SO? YOU MISSED THE OBVIOUS "HOT DOG" JOKE, BUT THAT'S WHAT MAKES HORSE RACES.
THEN, IN "LIMBURGER IS A DIRTY WORD!" BARKER COULDN'T REMEMBER EVER BEING IN THE CANINE CORPS.
IN FACT, HE REMEMBERED BEING IN THE SPACE SHIP IN THE PREVIOUS ISSUE.
I ♥ LA
THEN, LAST MONTH -- BARKER FIGURES OUT THAT HE COULD SAVE THE DAY.
OF COURSE, YOU DID CHANGE THAT ENDING.
CHOMP
SPITTOOEY
NATURALLY! YOU FORGOT THE CARDINAL RULE OF BC COMICS -- THE HERO IS ALWAYS THE HERO!
WRITE THAT DOWN. COMMIT IT TO MEMORY!
I DON'T WANT TO ARGUE WITH YOUR PHILOSOPHY, SIR, BUT HAVE YOU LOOKED AT YOUR COMPETITOR'S MAGAZINES?
THEY DO LOTS OF CONTINUITY. IT BRINGS THE READERS BACK EVERY MONTH!
CONTINUITY?! YOU THINK THAT ANYBODY WHO EVER READS ONE OF THESE THINGS IS EVER GONNA READ ANOTHER ONE?!
HERE! GO READ ALL OF THESE! SEE IF YOUR BRAINS DON'T LEAK OUT YOUR EARS BY THE TIME YOU'RE DONE!
NOW GET OUT OF HERE. COME BACK NEXT WEEK. WRITE SOMETHING ELSE. TYPE NEAT
AND NO MORE TALKING, THINKING, COSMICALLY AWARE DOGS -- GET IT?
AND FORGET ABOUT THAT RAISE I MENTIONED!
SLAM

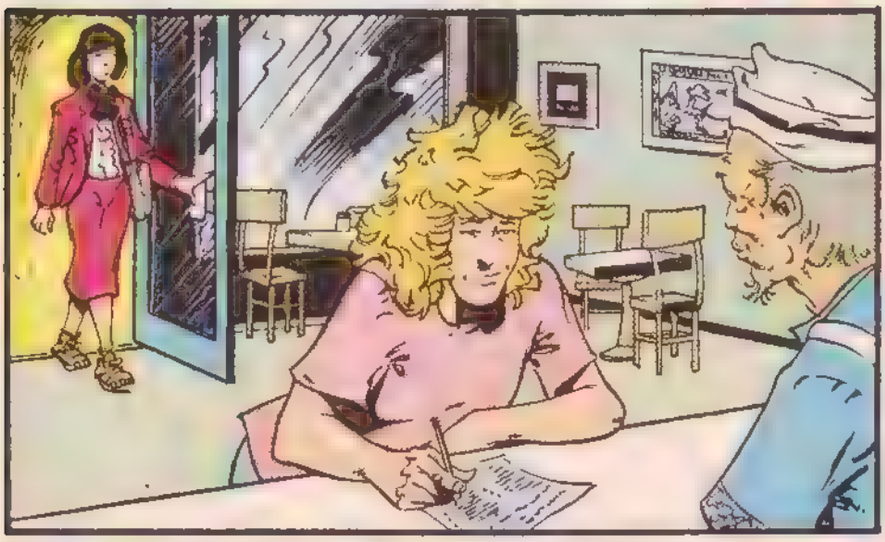
"WHAT AM I GOING TO DO WITH THAT GUY? I'D FIRE HIM, BUT I CAN'T GET ANYBODY TO WORK FOR WHAT I PAY HIM! AHHHH-- LET'S SEE HOW I CAN FIX THIS MESS..."
BARKER, ARE YOU TRYING TO TELL ME THERE'S AN AMBUSH OUTSIDE AND THAT I'D BETTER GO OUT THE BACK WAY TO GET THE DROP ON THEM?
RUMF
GIVE ME THIRTY SECONDS, WINKY, THEN PUSH THIS COAT TREE IN FRONT OF THE DOOR.
CHEEKEEZ, ZOOT! WHAT'LL YOU BE DOING?
CAPTURING BIG AL'S WHOLE GANG!
THEN, THIRTY SECONDS LATER...
RATATAT
TATATAT
THERE HE IS! BLAST HIM!
WE GOT HIM!
THAT'S THE END OF SPUTNIK!
BIG AL'S GONNA LOVE THIS NEWS!
BUT HE'S NOT GOING TO LIKE THE NEWS THAT HIS ENTIRE GANG'S BEEN CAPTURED. HANDS UP, BOYS!
CRIPES! IT'S SPUTNIK-- ALIVE!
LATER..
HERE YOU ARE, ZOOT-- THE CHEF'S SPECIAL. ENJOY!
CHEEKEEZ, ZOOT! THIS LOOKS GREAT.
EAT UP, WINKY--SO WE'LL BE READY FOR OUR NEXT VERY FUN ADVENTURE!
RUMF

"GIRLS' NIGHT OUT"

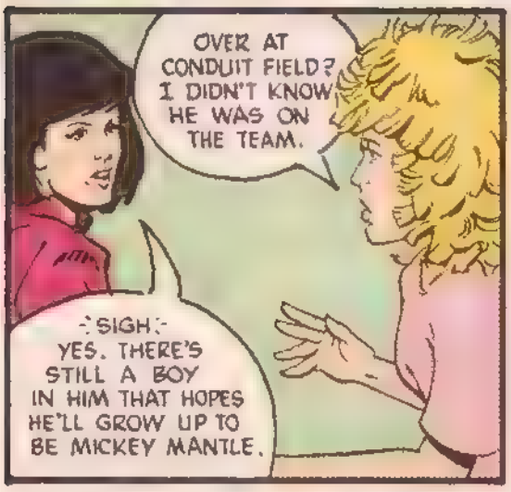
featuring characters created by Rozakis & DeStefano

BOB ROZAKIS writer
BOB SMITH artist
BOB LAPPAN letterer
NANSI HOOLAHAN colorist
BARBARA RANDALL editor

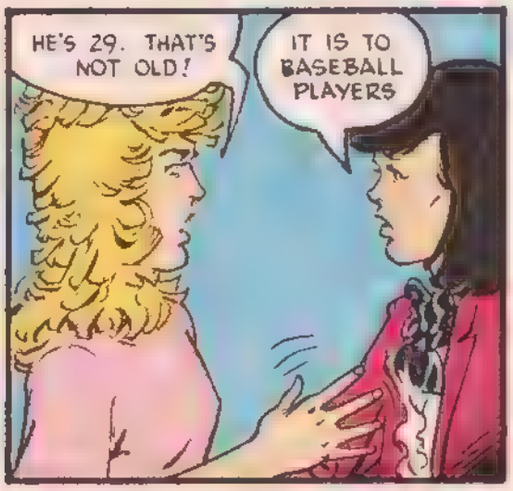


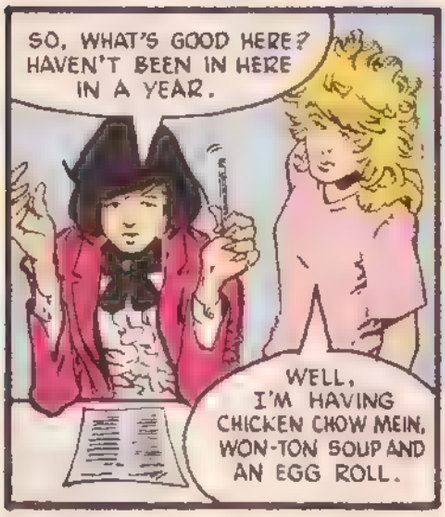


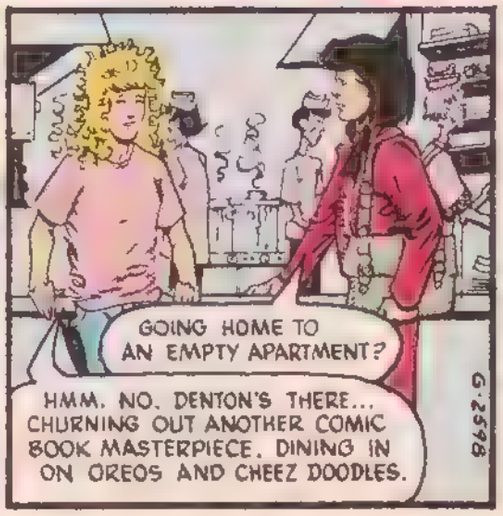
BRENDA--HI! YOU AND EDDIE COULDN'T DECIDE WHOSE NIGHT IT WAS TO COOK, HUNH?
MORE LIKE WE COULDN'T DECIDE WHOSE NIGHT IT WAS TO EAT. HE'S PLAYING SOFTBALL TONIGHT.

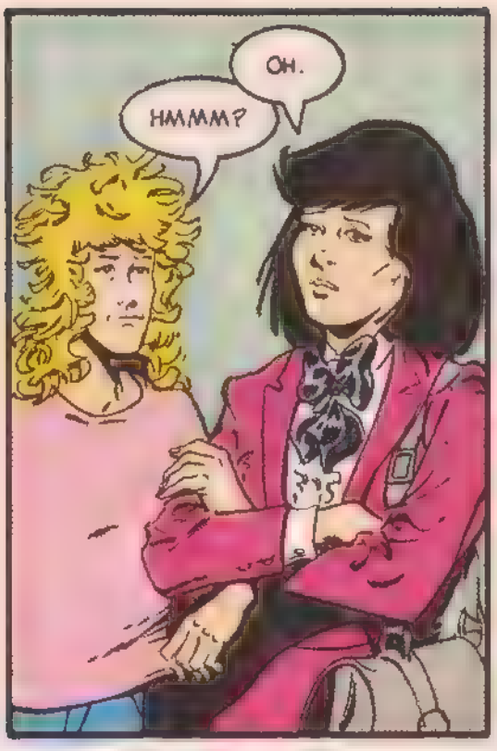

OVER AT CONDUIT FIELD? I DIDN'T KNOW HE WAS ON THE TEAM.
:SIGH: YES. THERE'S STILL A BOY IN HIM THAT HOPES HE'LL GROW UP TO BE MICKEY MANTLE.

SO, TWICE A WEEK HE PLAYS BALL WITH A BUNCH OF GUYS WHO ARE TEN YEARS YOUNGER THAN HE IS. I THINK IT AMUSES THEM TO LET "THE OLD MAN" PLAY WITH THEM.

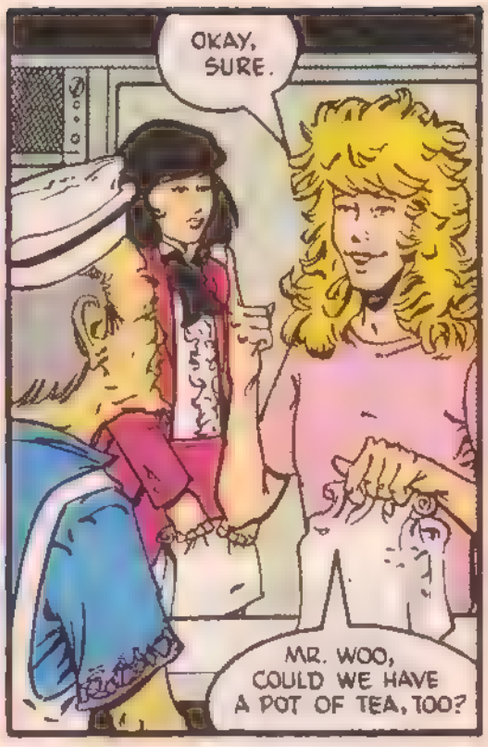





GOING HOME TO AN EMPTY APARTMENT?
HMM. NO. DENTON'S THERE... CHURNING OUT ANOTHER COMIC BOOK MASTERPIECE. DINING IN ON OREOS AND CHEEZ DOODLES.
G.2598

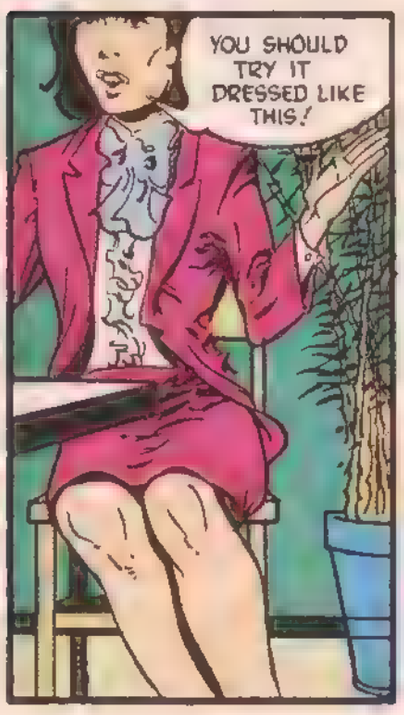

HMMM?
OH.

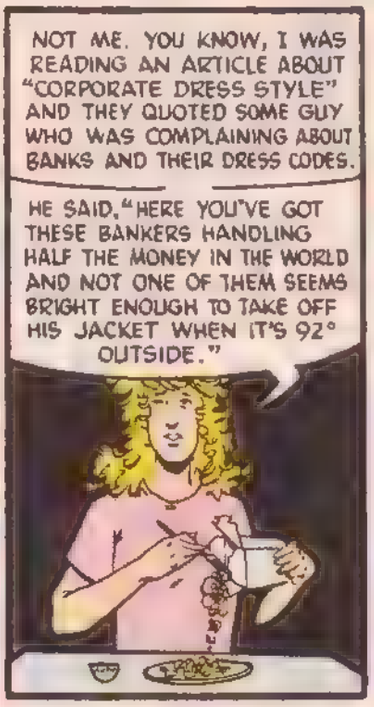
I WAS JUST THINKING, WHY DON'T WE EAT HERE? LEAST WE'D HAVE SOME COMPANY.


OKAY, SURE.
MR. WOO, COULD WE HAVE A POT OF TEA, TOO?

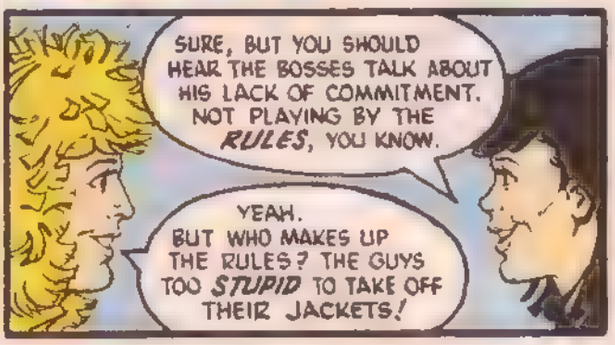
THINK IT'S GOING TO RAIN?
WISH IT WOULD DO SOMETHING. THIS MUGGY WEATHER IS SO OPPRESSIVE. AND THE SUBWAYS...

I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN. I WAS ON ONE THE OTHER DAY WHERE THE *HEAT* WAS *ON* IN THE CAR.
IT WAS SUCH A RELIEF TO GET OUT INTO THE NICE, COOL 95 DEGREES!

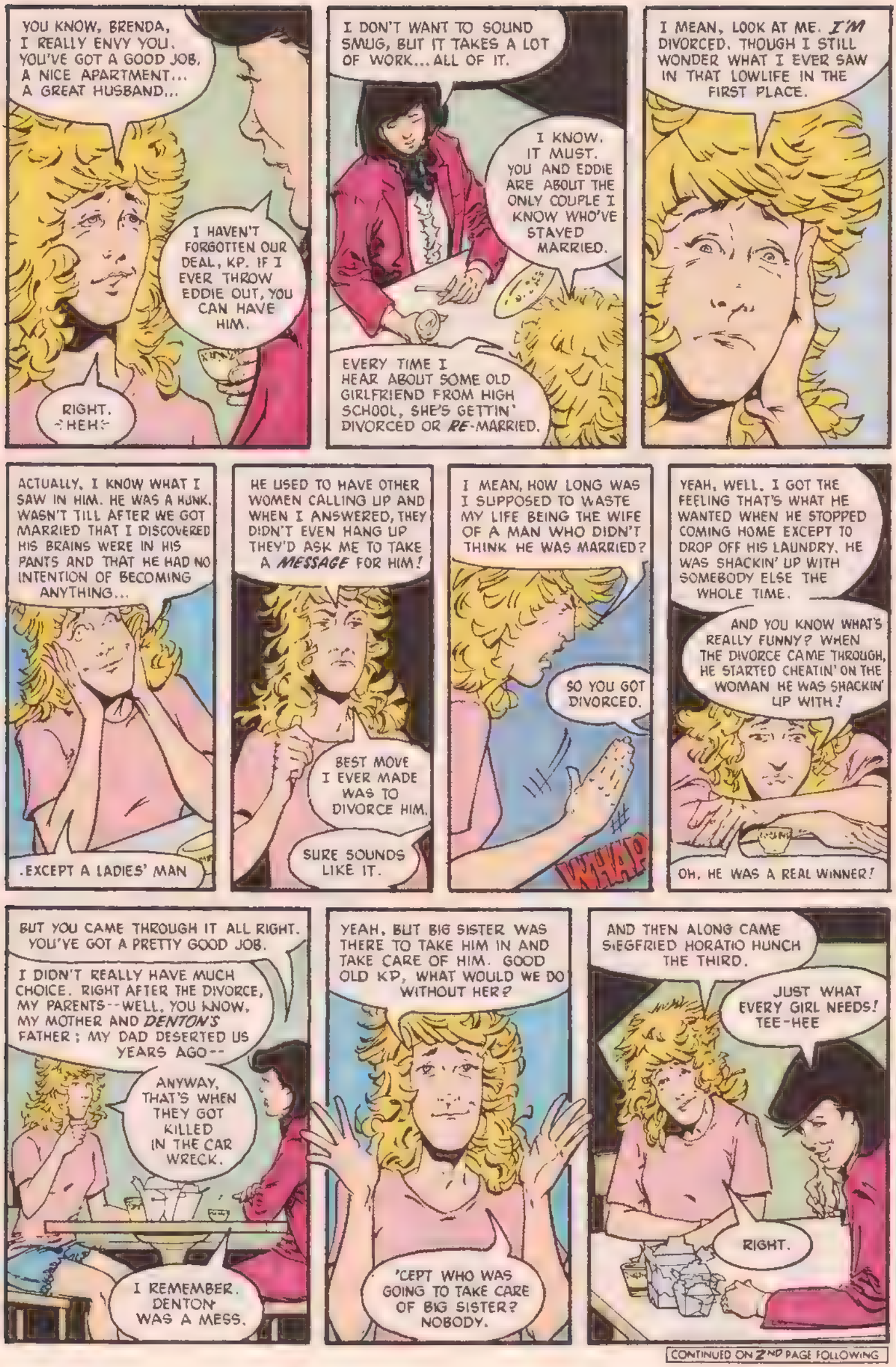

YOU SHOULD TRY IT DRESSED LIKE THIS!


NOT ME. YOU KNOW, I WAS READING AN ARTICLE ABOUT "CORPORATE DRESS STYLE" AND THEY QUOTED SOME GUY WHO WAS COMPLAINING ABOUT BANKS AND THEIR DRESS CODES.
HE SAID, "HERE YOU'VE GOT THESE BANKERS HANDLING HALF THE MONEY IN THE WORLD AND NOT ONE OF THEM SEEMS BRIGHT ENOUGH TO TAKE OFF HIS JACKET WHEN IT'S 92° OUTSIDE."

SOUNDS LIKE OUR PRODUCTION MANAGER. HE GOES OFF TO PRINTING PLANTS TO OKAY ADVERTISEMENTS AND FLYERS AND MOST OF THOSE PLANTS DON'T HAVE ANY AIR CONDITIONING. ALL THE PRINTER'S REPS ARE WEARING THEIR SUITS AND HE'S STANDING THERE SMUGLY IN SHORTS AND A T-SHIRT. HE TELLS THEM THAT SINCE HE'S THE CUSTOMER, HE CAN GET AWAY WITH IT.


SURE, BUT YOU SHOULD HEAR THE BOSSES TALK ABOUT HIS LACK OF COMMITMENT. NOT PLAYING BY THE *RULES*, YOU KNOW.
YEAH. BUT WHO MAKES UP THE RULES? THE GUYS TOO *STUPID* TO TAKE OFF THEIR JACKETS!

SO DENTON'S HOME WRITING? DOES HE REALLY MAKE ENOUGH TO EARN A LIVING DOING THAT?
I DON'T THINK SO. HE PAYS HIS PART OF THE RENT AND FOOD AND STUFF, BUT HE'S CERTAINLY NOT GETTING RICH
IN FACT, DON'T TELL HIM THAT I TOLD YOU, BUT I THINK MAZE IS PAYING FOR A LOT OF THE STUFF, SLIPPING MONEY INTO DENTON'S POCKETS WHEN HE'S NOT LOOKING.
I'VE SEEN DENTON SURPRISED JUST A FEW TOO MANY TIMES FINDING AN EXTRA TEN BUCKS IN HIS SHIRT OR JACKET POCKET.
YOU OUGHT TO ASK MAZE.
BE REAL, BRENDA. IF I ASKED HIM STRAIGHT OUT, HE'D SMILE HIS SILLY SMILE AND ASK INNOCENTLY, "WHO? ME?"
BESIDES, THERE'S BEEN MORE THAN ONCE WHEN I'VE FOUND AN EXTRA TEN OR TWENTY IN MY POCKETS.
GEE, MAYBE YOU COULD SEND HIM OVER TO STAY WITH US.
WITH OR WITHOUT THE SEA MONKEYS?
HOW'S EDDIE'S NEW JOB WORKING OUT?
PRETTY GOOD. HE SAYS VANDERPLATZ DOESN'T PICK ON HIM AS MUCH ANYMORE THEY HIRED SOME GUY FRESH OUT OF COLLEGE TO TAKE EDDIE'S OLD JOB.
VANDERPLATZ IS PICKING ON HIM NOW.
VANDERPLATZ STRIKES ME AS ONE OF THOSE GUYS WHO NEVER TAKES OFF HIS JACKET WHEN IT'S 92°!
I DON'T THINK VANDERPLATZ TAKES OFF HIS JACKET WHEN HE GOES TO BED!
EDDIE, ON THE OTHER HAND, WOULDN'T MIND IT A BIT IF HIS JACKET WENT TO THE DRY CLEANERS AND NEVER CAME BACK!
TELL HIM I'VE GOT JUST THE DRY CLEANER FOR HIM. I'M CONVINCED SOMEBODY ELSE IS RUNNING AROUND IN HALF MY UNIFORMS.


YOU KNOW, BRENDA, I REALLY ENVY YOU. YOU'VE GOT A GOOD JOB, A NICE APARTMENT... A GREAT HUSBAND...
I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN OUR DEAL, KP. IF I EVER THROW EDDIE OUT, YOU CAN HAVE HIM.
RIGHT. HEH
I DON'T WANT TO SOUND SMUG, BUT IT TAKES A LOT OF WORK... ALL OF IT.
I KNOW. IT MUST. YOU AND EDDIE ARE ABOUT THE ONLY COUPLE I KNOW WHO'VE STAYED MARRIED.
EVERY TIME I HEAR ABOUT SOME OLD GIRLFRIEND FROM HIGH SCHOOL, SHE'S GETTIN' DIVORCED OR RE-MARRIED.
I MEAN, LOOK AT ME. I'M DIVORCED. THOUGH I STILL WONDER WHAT I EVER SAW IN THAT LOWLIFE IN THE FIRST PLACE.
ACTUALLY, I KNOW WHAT I SAW IN HIM. HE WAS A HUNK. WASN'T TILL AFTER WE GOT MARRIED THAT I DISCOVERED HIS BRAINS WERE IN HIS PANTS AND THAT HE HAD NO INTENTION OF BECOMING ANYTHING...
.EXCEPT A LADIES' MAN
HE USED TO HAVE OTHER WOMEN CALLING UP AND WHEN I ANSWERED, THEY DIDN'T EVEN HANG UP THEY'D ASK ME TO TAKE A MESSAGE FOR HIM!
BEST MOVE I EVER MADE WAS TO DIVORCE HIM.
SURE SOUNDS LIKE IT.
I MEAN, HOW LONG WAS I SUPPOSED TO WASTE MY LIFE BEING THE WIFE OF A MAN WHO DIDN'T THINK HE WAS MARRIED?
SO YOU GOT DIVORCED.
WHAP
YEAH, WELL. I GOT THE FEELING THAT'S WHAT HE WANTED WHEN HE STOPPED COMING HOME EXCEPT TO DROP OFF HIS LAUNDRY. HE WAS SHACKIN' UP WITH SOMEBODY ELSE THE WHOLE TIME.
AND YOU KNOW WHAT'S REALLY FUNNY? WHEN THE DIVORCE CAME THROUGH, HE STARTED CHEATIN' ON THE WOMAN HE WAS SHACKIN' UP WITH!
OH, HE WAS A REAL WINNER!
BUT YOU CAME THROUGH IT ALL RIGHT. YOU'VE GOT A PRETTY GOOD JOB.
I DIDN'T REALLY HAVE MUCH CHOICE. RIGHT AFTER THE DIVORCE, MY PARENTS--WELL, YOU KNOW, MY MOTHER AND DENTON'S FATHER; MY DAD DESERTED US YEARS AGO--
ANYWAY, THAT'S WHEN THEY GOT KILLED IN THE CAR WRECK.
I REMEMBER. DENTON WAS A MESS.
YEAH, BUT BIG SISTER WAS THERE TO TAKE HIM IN AND TAKE CARE OF HIM. GOOD OLD KP, WHAT WOULD WE DO WITHOUT HER?
'CEPT WHO WAS GOING TO TAKE CARE OF BIG SISTER? NOBODY.
AND THEN ALONG CAME SIEGFRIED HORATIO HUNCH THE THIRD.
JUST WHAT EVERY GIRL NEEDS! TEE-HEE
RIGHT.

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

HOW *DID* MAZE END UP LIVING WITH YOU?

HE FOLLOWED DENTON HOME FROM BELLEVUE. DENTON WAS GOING FOR THERAPY AFTER THE CRASH. ONE DAY HE SHOWS UP WITH MAZE IN TOW...AND THE REST, AS THEY SAY, IS HISTORY.

BUT I REALLY SHOULDN'T SAY ANYTHING BAD ABOUT MAZE; HE REALLY *IS* A VERY DECENT PERSON.

UNDERSTANDING. CARING...

TOO BAD HE DOESN'T HAVE AN OLDER... AND TALLER...BROTHER.

ONE WHO DOESN'T WEAR A HELMET.

RIGHT. AND WEARS HIS UNDERSHORTS *INSIDE* HIS PANTS! HAHA

HA HA HA HA

ARE YOU... SEEING ANYBODY?

WELL, THERE'S... I MEAN... UM, ...*NO*

EVERY TIME I FIND SOMEBODY, HE TURNS OUT TO BE MARRIED OR NOT INTERESTED OR GAY OR SOMETHING. YOU DON'T REALIZE HOW LUCKY YOU ARE, BRENDA. TO HAVE EDDIE, I MEAN.

WELL...

NO, I MEAN IT. ALL THAT STUFF ON TV ABOUT THE SWINGING SINGLES LIFE...? IT MUST BE GREAT IF YOU DON'T MIND GETTING VD OR HERPES OR AIDS OR GOD KNOWS WHAT ELSE.

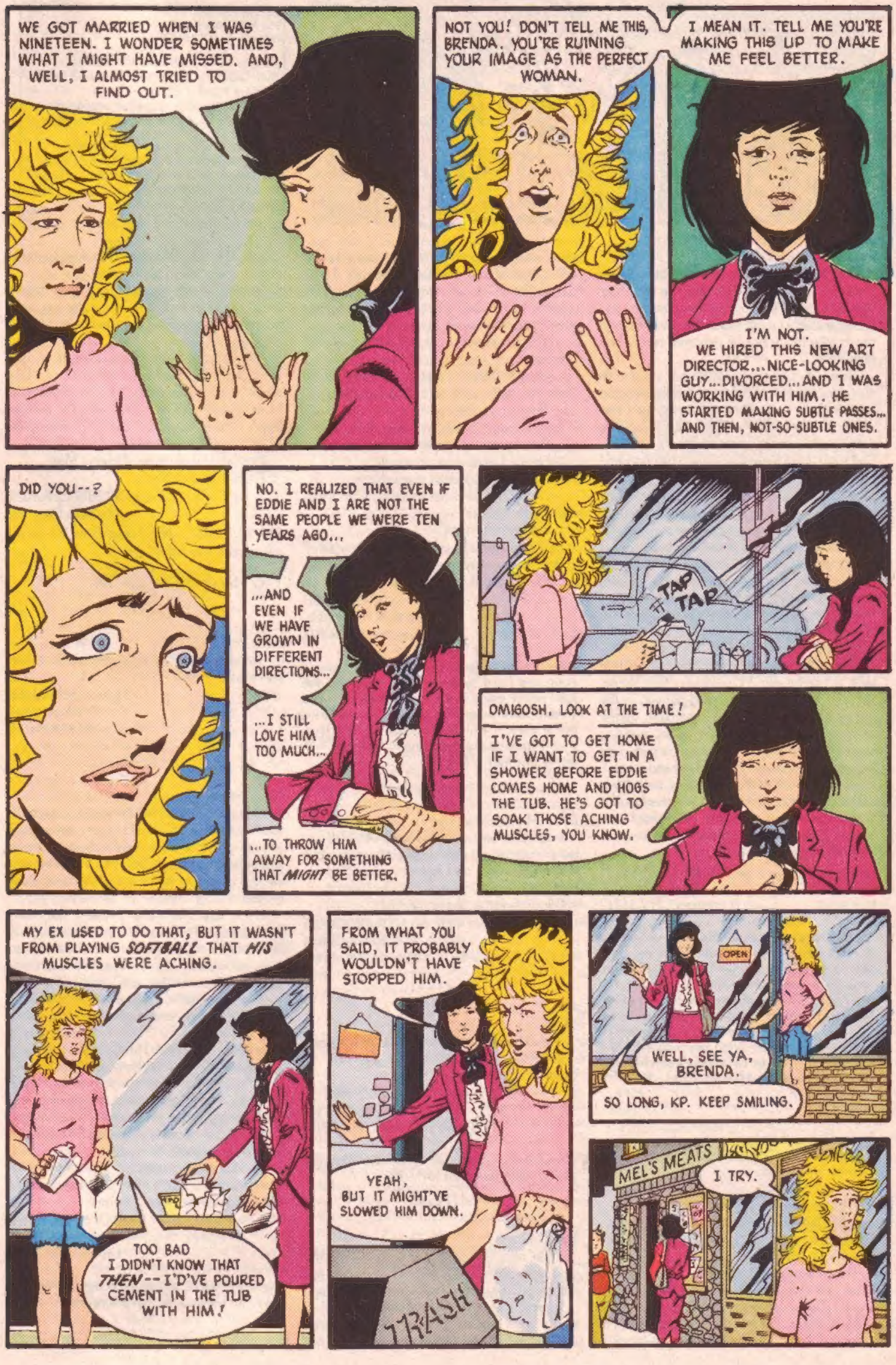
IT CAN'T BE ALL THAT BAD.

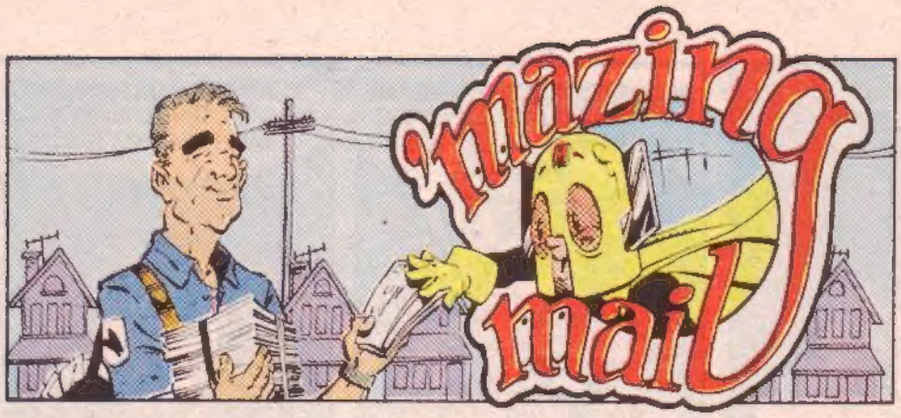
JUST BE HAPPY YOU'VE GOT EDDIE AND DON'T HAVE TO FIND OUT.

YOU'VE GOT THE BEST, IGNORE THE REST.

WELL... THERE ARE TIMES WHEN I WONDER ABOUT THAT

WHAT?


WE GOT MARRIED WHEN I WAS NINETEEN. I WONDER SOMETIMES WHAT I MIGHT HAVE MISSED. AND, WELL, I ALMOST TRIED TO FIND OUT.
NOT YOU! DON'T TELL ME THIS, BRENDA. YOU'RE RUINING YOUR IMAGE AS THE PERFECT WOMAN.
I MEAN IT. TELL ME YOU'RE MAKING THIS UP TO MAKE ME FEEL BETTER.
I'M NOT. WE HIRED THIS NEW ART DIRECTOR... NICE-LOOKING GUY... DIVORCED... AND I WAS WORKING WITH HIM. HE STARTED MAKING SUBTLE PASSES... AND THEN, NOT-SO-SUBTLE ONES.
DID YOU--?
NO. I REALIZED THAT EVEN IF EDDIE AND I ARE NOT THE SAME PEOPLE WE WERE TEN YEARS AGO...
...AND EVEN IF WE HAVE GROWN IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS...
...I STILL LOVE HIM TOO MUCH...
...TO THROW HIM AWAY FOR SOMETHING THAT MIGHT BE BETTER.
TAP TAP
OMIGOSH, LOOK AT THE TIME!
I'VE GOT TO GET HOME IF I WANT TO GET IN A SHOWER BEFORE EDDIE COMES HOME AND HOGS THE TUB. HE'S GOT TO SOAK THOSE ACHING MUSCLES, YOU KNOW.
MY EX USED TO DO THAT, BUT IT WASN'T FROM PLAYING SOFTBALL THAT HIS MUSCLES WERE ACHING.
TOO BAD I DIDN'T KNOW THAT THEN -- I'D'VE POURED CEMENT IN THE TUB WITH HIM!
FROM WHAT YOU SAID, IT PROBABLY WOULDN'T HAVE STOPPED HIM.
YEAH, BUT IT MIGHT'VE SLOWED HIM DOWN.
TRASH
OPEN
WELL, SEE YA, BRENDA.
SO LONG, KP. KEEP SMILING.
MEL'S MEATS
I TRY.



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L 2456

Dear 'Mazing People,

Did 'Maze and pals take the subway to Shea Stadium, or did they take the Streetcar Named Desire? It's obvious someone on your creative staff is a big fan of that film, though the in joke might not be detected by the less observant.

"Take Me Out to the Ballgame" in issue #6 was a pure delight! I'm a semi-regular denizen of the New York City ballparks, so I can attest to the realism. The only thing you didn't tackle in the major ballpark issues is that a hot dog allegedly always tastes better in the ballpark than anywhere else. The climb up to the top deck by Maze and Denton was hilarious. I went way up to the top on my first trip to the ballpark, too—that's a secret, irresistible temptation in the hearts of most of mankind. Of course, once you get your breath back, you vow never to do it again; along with other grievous sins and mistakes like pigging out on chocolate-chip cookies, waking up with a hangover, or buying that stylish but too small pair of shoes.

And is 'Maze a hero or isn't he? Could you face a loaded gun? Could you face something or somebody that could put you in the hospital with one backhanded blow to the head, let alone with a gun? The mugging scene was an expert blend of comedy and danger—the mugger was SO big and menacing that the temptation is to deny that she is real and give her the horse—or is that dog?—laugh. Great little field trip! Next stop—the Staten Island Ferry—where Maze saves a mermaid from drowning!

CHARLES D. BROWN
39 Stockton St.
Brentwood, NY 11717

There's a good reason that our version of Shea Stadium is so realistic. Stephen, Karl, and I (along with former DCer Mike Flynn) took in a game last summer, just for the reference. About halfway through the game, Mike and I looked up from where we were sitting and way up in "heaven" were Stephen and Karl. No—*they* didn't get mugged. (And our next trip will be to Jones Beach for next issue's full-length extravaganza.)—BR

*****

Dear Alan and Bob,

I can't believe it! I just can't! You put all my favorite things into one:

—I love baseball
—I love comics
—My favorite number is six
—I love seeing my name
—I love 'Mazing Man

The perfect issue! Holy Cow! Another Hit! (You got that right.) It was beautiful. (As usual.) The art and writing were at their peak.

Now, about the cover. What did the NL stand for? Nutty League? And for the fun of it, what was the name of the catcher's team? The Philadelphia Follies? The St. Louis Caramblers? The Cincinnati Duds? The only team in the NL (Nutty League) that wears red caps. And the guy at third, he's either:

—The worst out of place 3rd baseman I've ever seen
—On MM's team waiting to come home (with the same uniform as the catcher)
—The third base coach

Before I sign off, let me say:

—What was the name of MM's team?
—I hope Guido finds Stella
—I hope Denton had a good time
—I hope K.P. likes her present (Where was she, by the way?)
—Eddie: Next time
—I hope (page 3, panel 4) the cops got it!

And finally, way to go, Brenda!

GREAT ISSUE!!

ANDY SVED
455 N. Kilkea Dr.
Los Angeles, CA 90048

That mystery guy on the cover was a confused third baseman. See, Stephen and Karl never made it down to field level—you should have seen how they originally drew home plate!—which accounts for the less-than-totally-accurate picture. And K.P. was doing her hair.—BR

*****

Dear 'Mazing Man,

I just have one word to say: BRAVO! If you keep putting out issues like #6, with all its realism, humor, and humanity, you'll soon have another hit on your hands. Keep it up, and long live the Hunch family!

THE SILVER UNICORN
7382 Bridge Street
Pulaski, NY 13142

*****

Alan—

'MAZING MAN #6 really disappointed me. I mean, I used to like the guy until he became a Mets' fan.

ASTRO ORTEN
Rte. 4, Box 120
Dawson Springs, KY 42408

Considering your *name*, we can imagine which team you root for!—BR

*****

Dear Mazers,

I just noticed that it's already been half a year since 'MAZING MAN #1 came out, and let me tell you it has been nothing but fun.

I guess the best thing about this book is that it is so human. I can see a lot of myself and my wife when I read about Brenda and Eddie. The way they live their lives together makes them seem almost real.

Guido reminds me of every other "ladies' man" I've ever met. Sometimes he too could be almost human, yet as usual he decided to be plain old Guido.

And let's not forget Maze. I like Maze best when he truly does something heroic. Like when he saved the kid in Issue #1 or when he bravely deflected the water into the mugger lady's face in issue #6. Maze is definitely the child that lives in all of us.

Thank God we have 'Mazing Man.

This is a great book.

DENNIS CHURCH
Midwest City, OK

P.S. My mother, who thinks comic books are silly, loves this book!

Give Mom a kiss for us!—BR

*****

Dear Bob,

Come on, now! Least ya coulda done was let him catch deh ball!

WILLIS COUVILLIER
PO Box 60698
Reno, NV 89506-0698

*****

Dear 'Mazing Man,

I knew 'MAZING MAN wasn't going to be for 4-year-olds; DC wouldn't give us the same old thing. I've been buying comics for the past ten years and I can't think of a time when the overall quality of DC comics was better. I've always thought you were the best!

There are too many things I like about 'MAZING MAN for me to list them all, so I'll limit myself to just three. First, the characters are realistic. They occasionally get mad at each other, but they don't dwell on it. Maze is great because he cares about people. Most comic book heroes save the world, but seem to do it more for the "thrill of victory" than to help people. Second, I applaud your decision to keep Maze's world free of other heroes. I usually find that the more heroes in a book, the less quality the character development has. Finally, your covers don't just copy a scene in the book, but give us an additional joke on a related theme.

I've heard that humor comics are the hardest to write. If that's true, you guys must be killing yourselves every issue.

MICHAEL MARZ
313 N. Third Avenue West, Apt. 1
Duluth, MN 55806

Actually, we're killing each other. We don't have an editor—we have a referee!—BR

*****

Dear Alan, Bob, and Company,

I'm a late starter on 'MAZING MAN; #6 was the first one I've seen and the cover says it's a hit. I was impressed by the lead story. It moved along well without any heavy plot, and that's the type of story which isn't easy to write. I feel the story is closer to modern fiction, which deals more with personal interactions (such as those of Anton Chekov) than the traditional comics format.

I can't say enough about "Brenda's Story." If there were any doubts that MAZE is a serious book, this piece removed them. I found it reminiscent of Steinbeck's short story "The Chrysanthemums." Hopefully, this good comic will be remembered at awards time.

MAZE is serious writing masquerading as a cartoon!

DOUG SHEARER
113 Taliferro St.
Rocky Mount, VA 24151

*****

Dear Mr. Rozakis,

Thank you for "Brenda's Story."

MIKE YOUNG
3804 Kilburn Rd.
Randallstown, MD 21133

*****

Dear 'Mazing People,

I want to thank you for 'MAZING MAN #6. Not the lead, but the back-up. "Brenda's Story" touched me in a way that no "comic book" story has ever touched me. Now, I'm sure you've heard that one before, so, lest you take this too lightly, let me put it in perspective: I'm a 29-year-old man, never married; I've been reading comics for as long as I can remember and have almost 5,000 in my collection. I can honestly say that never in all that time did anything I read in all those 5,000 comics move me emotionally the way "Brenda's Story" did.

And I'm not really sure why. I don't think it's because it was totally unexpected, though it certainly was that. I mean, comic books just aren't the place for adult, mature, sensitive stories like that. In comics, the word "adult" means graphic sex and/or violence, or dealing with the relevant issues of the world, or, worst of all, the super-hero-with-real-problems syndrome. Comics certainly would never depict real people with real frailties and human shortcomings. Or, if they did, it would inevitably be in the typical, overblown comic book/soap opera style—never in such a way that you could think these people were living next door.

That style was certainly part of why the story meant so much to me, but it was more the content. The story speaks volumes, and I could probably write volumes of "analysis," but I'll try to hold it to a manageable level: Here we have a bright, attractive young woman who, after (we can presume) a not-too-easy time of it, has just started to get somewhere with her career. She loves her husband, but he's grown comfortable with her and has started to take her for granted. He's also more than a little jealous of her success and, most likely, trying to avoid facing his own lack thereof. Enter the suave, handsome, up-and-coming new art director. He pays attention to her, compliments her, appreciates her abilities and work. They naturally grow close, as people do when they work together. And, just as naturally, thoughts drift into possibilities. But she really does love the big lug—TV, ice cream, and all. And so, perhaps a tiny bit reluctantly, she turns her back on those possibilities.

But as I re-read the story, I realized how inadequate my analysis is. Yes, it still gets to me. In particular, the "quiet" parts: The panels at the top of page 4 and the bottom of page 5. There is so much in those two simple panels—the kind of thing that could never be captured in the written word.

But I'm starting to wax poetic. I still don't see why this should affect a 29-year-old bachelor. I've certainly never been in Brenda's situation. And, to the best of my knowledge, I've never been in Eddie's either.

A woman friend of mine, a couple of years older and married ten years, didn't like the story. She maintained that the scene on page 6 really happened and I wasn't able to convince her that it was just Brenda's fantasy. She couldn't see past the apparent unfaithfulness, and so the ending was lost on her. But this makes the mystery deepen: Why should a happily married woman (or for that matter, her husband, who is nothing like Eddie) dislike the story while a lifetime (and frequently cynical) bachelor is deeply moved by it?

We'll probably never know the answer to that, but it took 5,000 comics before a story could do it and the cynic in me says it'll take a lot more than 5,000 more before a story can do it again. By all means, Messrs. Rozakis and DeStefano, consider it a challenge to prove me wrong.

JIM PRESTON
655 So. Fair Oaks / A-311
Sunnyvale, CA 94086

*****

Dear Alan,

I really like 'MAZING MAN. It appeals to the little kid in me and so I must protest the use of adult language and adult situations.

This title has more expletives than some of your supposedly more adult books. I had hoped that this would be a comic I could let my daughter read when she started reading, but it's not.

I really don't think anybody under the age of fifteen should be reading 'MAZING MAN. Please return to the more innocent formula of the first couple of issues.

I am not in favor of censorship. My statements grow out of the fact that I am a concerned parent.

STEVEN REA THOMAS
Kansas City Comic Book Club
136 East Longfellow
Kansas City, MO 64119

I have to agree, Steven, though we could debate what the age limit ought to be (PG-13?). I would not give 'MAZING MAN to my children as their first comic book either. We are not aiming this book at beginning readers any more than you would start your child's TV-watching with M*A*S*H or the "old" Mary Tyler Moore show. 'Mazing Man represents that childlike innocence in all of us, but he is not a child and the situations he is involved in are not childish. I hope you enjoy the book now and that the day will come when your children can also appreciate it, but not for some years.—BR

*****

Dear 'Mazing Crew,

I've never read anything as remarkable as 'MAZING MAN #6. In the past, your comics made me think, dream, get angry, and laugh. No comic has ever made me feel good about myself, and about the world. I want to pay you the ultimate compliment, but I don't know how to sum up my thanks. Maybe this will do it:

There's a show on every Thursday night that makes me feel good inside. It portrays real characters in real situations and leaves you with an optimistic attitude. It stars Bill Cosby.

The only difference between that show and 'MAZING MAN is that your comic only comes out once a month.

BILL EISELE
19401 Treadway Rd.
Brookville, MD 20833

*****

A couple of things before we close: You'll notice that Barbara Randall has replaced Alan Gold as editor of this magazine. Alan has left DC for the job as managing editor of Cambridge Books, an educational publishing company. Despite all the nasty things we say about him (all of them with a smile), there is no way Stephen and I can truly express our appreciation for Alan's efforts. He is as responsible for the formation of our characters as real people over the issues as we are. And he never asked for changes just to justify his position as editor—he *knew* we could do it better and forced us to. He leaves Barbara a very large pair of shoes to fill.

As it stands, 'MAZING MAN #12 will be our last issue ... unless sales pick up between now (as #7 goes on sale) and the time #11 comes out. Writing letters to Jenette Kahn or Dick Giordano demanding the book be kept alive can't hurt, but what really would help is selling more copies. If you have a friend or fellow comics-fan who hasn't read an issue, urge them to give it a try. We've gotten an armload of letters from people who found out about MAZE in just that way. But you've got to do it soon, or we'll be just a fond memory. Thanks.

*****

Following Alan's tradition of mentioning all the other folks whose letters there was no room for ... thanks to the following people:

RICK JONES — GERARD CRUZ
JOE FUOCO — JIMMY FEALS
KAREN JAFFE — DAVID J. ANDERSON
AVITAREADER — TIM LANDRY
MARC DAVIS — RODGER MARTIN
MICHAEL K. WILLIS — MATT LEVIN
ETHAN KALETT — EDWARD BAKER
JOHN S. HUGGINS — JLS
B.R. WILDER — RAJESH KRISHNAN
LIAM TONER — WALLY STOELTING
LOU BEAR
CHARLES DAVID HASKELL
JOHN FREUND
T.M. MAPLE

*****

NEXT: Spend a day at the beach with our crew. Meet Guido's parents and sister ... and his girlfriend. Watch nine people crowd into a Lincoln Continental. Plus: the official map of Maze's neighborhood. And all for 75¢! Buy *two* copies!

—Bob Rozakis